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1 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Nominations for DDNRO

1. With Gene Kiefer leaving the CIA on 15 February 1965, we are left with a */formally/* vacant chair in the Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. The PPIAB report on NRO clearly does not consider a CIA deputy as part of the future configuration, and General Stewart has stated that Kiefer will not be replaced with another CIA man. While we may not believe that a CIA deputy for NRO is the right way to exercise our influence in the NRP, it is clear that we can ill afford to lose this one last symbol of authority.

2. We are now in the fortunate position of having a number of able men for such a post, many of them skilled both technically and bureaucratically. However, we can expect little enthusiasm from them for such a task unless we make major modifications in the basic agreement and operation of the NRO. Nor can we afford to lose a really good man to a holding action without end.

3. I propose that we consider two situations for choosing a DDNRO:

a. Short-term holding action until a decent bargain can be struck, at which time we would re-examine the need.

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b. Indefinite holding action where we should want to hold as much ground as possible while opening up an active source of information and demanding full voice in NRO affairs.

The individual chosen will have to raise a great many issues of substance and procedure to retain a meaningful position. This will take a good deal of intestinal fortitude and judgment. It will also demand close collaboration with CIA Headquarters and unfailing, prompt backing by the DCI and DDCI.

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(8) Conclusions:

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I have difficulty in recommending consideration of anything but the short haul leading toward a much-revised NRO. For a fairly lively period with lots of issues to use for revision, I would recommend Carl Duckett. If you want to keep the noise level down inside and make your move from outside, I would recommend [redacted] If you want to keep the chair warm--and maybe lose it--send Parrott [redacted]

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4. I should like to discuss this matter with you at your convenience and request that any approach to these candidates will be made through me.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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